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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LASTRA, DANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/258,302

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

Examiner

DANIEL LASTRA

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. Claims 21-37 have been examined

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaragi et al (U.S. 4,885,788) in view of Mori et al (U.S. 5,659,166).

As per claim 21, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus for registering information of a store which participates in a point system, and for providing the store with a register store number and an encryption key, both of which are peculiar to the store (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the registered store number. This feature, in combination with the

encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches an IC card that has a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application for processing data encrypted by said encryption key and including point data, and for managing access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said encryption key (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, and the predetermined number of points is converted into a number which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Takaragi IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the

Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 22, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use by a store having a register store number and an encryption key, both of which are peculiar to said store (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access their specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches a point management application for processing data, which is transmitted from outside of said memory of said IC card, encrypted by said encryption key and includes point data, and for managing access to each of said point storage

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areas by said register store number. (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 23, Takaragi et al teach:

A method of issuing point data to an IC card, the method comprising the steps of:
having said IC card inserted into a reader and writer, which has an encryption key and register store number, both of which are peculiar to a store (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make

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reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each different store to access their specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from other stores.

Takaragi teaches wherein said IC card includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of which stores point data, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas (see figure 1B); and

transmitting to said IC card point data encrypted by said encryption key, said point data being decrypted by said point management application and said register store number by which said point management application allows access to one of said point storage areas, which corresponds to the store (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 3, lines 55-67 – column 4, lines 1-12). Takaragi does not teach of the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines

35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 24, Takaragi et al teach

A method of transmitting point data to an IC card with a reader and writer of a store, the method comprising the steps of:

setting said IC card into said reader and writer, to which an encryption key and a register store number are uniquely assigned, said IC card including a memory which has plurality of point storage areas for storing said point data, and a point management application which processes said point data and manages access to said point storage areas (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30; column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teaches that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches inputting point data encrypted by said encryption key to said IC card, said point data being issued corresponding to a customer's use (see column 3, lines 60-67);

decrypting encrypted point data by said point management application (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 3, lines 59-67);

and storing decrypted point data into one of said point storage areas in accordance with said register store number by said point management application (see column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card

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and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 25, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus which registers a store which participates in a point system, and which provides the store with a register store number, which is peculiar to the store (see column 1, lines 65-67 – column 2, lines 1-30; column 3, lines 55-67). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area has a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi teaches an IC card having a memory which includes a plurality of point storage areas each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's

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use, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which secures a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 8, lines 25-31); and

reading and writing apparatus, which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number (see column 3, lines 50-67 – column 4, lines 1-15; column 7, lines 14-42, figure 6). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 26, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use (see figure 1B); and

a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which secures a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time (see column 2, lines 1-25, column 3, lines 55-67, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 27, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system comprising:

point system management apparatus which registers stores which participate in a point system, and which provides each of the stores with a register store number which is peculiar to the store, and provides to a group of stores a group number which is peculiar to the group of stores (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi does not expressly teach a group transaction area where several stores would save their transaction data. However, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if Takaragi has different transaction areas in the same IC card, it would have a transaction area that would be used by several stores. The stores would have the same encipher key to access that area and would save their data in the same transaction area (see column 2, lines 17-25). This feature would help stores to share data between them.

Takaragi teaches an IC card having a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by each of the stores corresponding to a customer's use and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which manages access to said group point storage area by said group number and reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said group number (see column 2, lines 1-17; column 3, lines 59-65, column 8, lines 25-31). Takaragi does not teach the store of point data in the IC card. However, Mori teaches of an IC card that stores point data in an IC card and a point management system that checks if the number of points has reached a predetermined number. When the predetermined number of points has been reached, this state is automatically judged, the predetermined number of points is converted into a number, which is then added to the pre-paid region of the card (see column 5, lines 35-45). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if the Tanager's IC card stores account balances (see column 4, lines 63-67 – column 5, lines 1-15), it would also store point data, as taught by Mori. Each store would have a different transaction area in the Takaragi card and would store the balance and amount of points accumulated for that particular store. The granting of points would be an incentive for customers to use the Takaragi card as every purchase would increase the number of points that would be used to redeem awards or to receive credits.

As per claim 28, Takaragi teaches:

An IC card comprising:

a memory having plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by stores each having a register store number which is peculiar to said store corresponding to a customer's use, and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores having a group number which is peculiar to the stores corresponding to a customer's use and point management application which manages access to each of said point storage areas by said register store number and which manages access to said group storage area by said group number (see column 2, lines 1-25; see column 3, lines 59-65). Takaragi does not expressly mention a register store number. However, lines 20-25 of column 1 teach that the IC card has transaction areas that are different depending upon the store, so that one store is not allowed to make reference to the transactions of other stores. And lines 59-67 of column 3 and figure 6, item 117 teach that each transaction area has a different authentication code that is used by each store to access its specific transaction area. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that each transaction area would have a unique authentication code that would function as the register store number. This feature, in combination with the encipher codes that are also different for each store (see column 8, lines 25-30), would keep the information from one store secret from the other stores.

Takaragi does not expressly teach a group transaction area where several stores would save their transaction data. However, it would have been obvious to a person of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the application was made, to know that if Takaragi has different transaction areas in the same IC card, it would have a transaction area that would be used by several stores. The several stores would have the same encipher key to access that area and would save their data in the same transaction area (see column 2, lines 17-25). This feature would help stores to share data between them.

As per claim 29, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 22, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area to record them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory (see column 2, lines 1-30; column 8, lines 25-30).

As per claim 30, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas (see column 8, lines 25-30).

As per claim 31, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area (see column 3, lines 55-67 – column 4, lines 1-15; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 32, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory (see column 2, lines 1-25; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 33, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas (see column 8, lines 25-32).

As per claim 34, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area (see column 3, lines 59-67 – column 4, lines 1-7; column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 35, Takaragi et al teach:

An IC card according to claim 22, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area (see figure 3, item 61).

As per claim 36, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management applications writes an encryption key peculiar to the new store when securing the point storage area for the new store (see column 8, lines 25-31).

As per claim 37, Takaragi et al teach:

A point management system according to claim 25, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area (see column 8, lines 25-31).

Response to Arguments

3. The Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-37 have been considered but they are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). The Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL LASTRA whose telephone number is 703-306-5933. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC W STAMBER can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

D.L.

Daniel Lastra

December 18, 2002

[Signature]
James W. Myhre
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3622